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Inside Wallops

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Wallops Team Locates, Refurbishes and Relocates Antenna

Following the failure of the Wallops command destruct antenna system, a team of NASA civil service and contract employees was formed to refurbish a command antenna and relocate a tower.

The team established a multi-purpose approach to resolve the failure and completed the work with a period of approximately six weeks.

A command destruct antenna mounted high on a tower for visibility had to be located, tested and ready for qualification activities in a relatively short period of time.

The completion of this project was time critical, because the antenna was necessary to provide support for the Atlas NROL ELV launch from the Eastern Range in June 2004.

A team with multiple skills was formed in one day and established a high level vision of the work required.

Project management developed and distributed a work schedule within two days.

The team included a welder, electrician, crane operator, rigger, truck driver, machinist, logistician, electrical

engineer, mechanical engineer, civil engineer, local county government official and project manager.

The team located a Canoga model antenna that had been salvaged from the closure of the Bermuda Tracking Station. The antenna had been stored outside on the ground for approximately five years and was in need of substantial refurbishment.

An old, abandoned platform tower also was located near the old firehouse on Wallops Main Base.

NASA representatives and personnel from Accomack County worked to obtain the required Department of Transportation permit to move the large tower structure seven miles from the Wallops Main Base to the Wallops Main Land (Island Gate area).

Several days of heavy rain stopped work on the tower portion of the work, however the team continued to make progress refurbishing the antenna and machining replacement parts during the inclement weather.

Innovative thinking and outstanding teamwork contributed greatly to completion of the project well within the time restraints.

Wallops Shorts..... Launch

A NASA single-stage Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from Wallops Island on June 9, 2004.

This was the seventh Sub-SEM (Space Experiment Module) and included experiments from high schools in Alaska, Georgia, Illinois and Minnesota. Five experiments developed by elementary through junior high school students also were carried in the nose cone.



Photo by Berit Bland

The Improved-Orion lifted off at 6:35 a.m., July 9.

The purpose of the mission is to give students the opportunity to obtain knowledge of engineering processes, scientific experimentation and launch operations. The principal investigator was Ed Parrott, NASA Teacher-on-Loan. The mission manager was Ted Gass, NSROC.

Data was received on all monitored experiments. The payload was recovered and returned to the students approximately three hours after launch for deintegration.



Photo by Keith Koehler

Students wash the payload prior to deintegration.



Photo by James Mason-Foley

Front Row (left to right): Joe Valentine, Brian Purdy, Randy Barfield, Nathan Clark, Steve McNally, Rachael Vaughn

Second Row (left to right): Angela Wingfield, Rob Cass, Billy Young, Alex Lawson, A. J. Kellam, Ronald Wharton, Ralph Harmon

Back Row (left to right): Gregg Frostrom, E.T. Hickman, Jeff Snead, Chuck Bradford, Donnie Holloway, John Stone, John Bloxom, Joel Smith, Dale Milliner, Bill Wallace, Chuck Jacob, Walt Ladish

Summer Students 2004

Once again students from all over the U.S. are arriving at Wallops to spend the summer working in many different areas and for many different organizations, government and contract. Last year 45 students from several colleges and universities worked under many different programs. This year there are 39 students.

The students are invited to attend an overview of Wallops by John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, at 3 p.m., Monday, June 14, in the Conference Room of Building E-2. If you should have a student in your area or see them around the Main Base, be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them.



This year’s students and their mentors are:

Rebecca Hudson – Salisbury University
Mentor: Betty Flowers, Public Affairs Office

Cheketa N. Nock – University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Mentor: Bernie Pagliaro, Procurement Office

Aimee Mendoza – University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Mentor: Catherine Fairchild, Aircraft Office

Tahira Javaid – University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Mentor: John Gerlach, Observational Science Branch

Gregory Groves – University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Mentors: Barbara Justis, Shuttle Small Payloads Projects Office, and, Dave Wilcox, Mechanical Systems Branch

Abass Labay – University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Mentor: Leigh Gatto, Systems Software Engineering Branch

Gabe Ladd – Boston University/
UMES Grad Student
Mentor: Geoff Bland, Observational Science Branch

Sarah Chaudary – University of Illinois
Mentor: Russell Dufrene, GN&C and Mission Systems Engineering Branch

Kirsten Williams – Wheeling-Jesuit University
Mentor: Leigh Gatto, Systems Software Engineering Branch

Andrew Hopkins – Virginia Tech
Mentors: Jim Lanzi and Phil Ward, GN&C and Mission Systems Engineering Branch

Albert Purdy – University of Pennsylvania
Mentor: John Moisan, Observational Science Branch

Eric Wattenbarger – Parks College of St. Louis University
Mentor: Chris Shreves, Mechanical Systems Branch

Robert Fisher – Oklahoma State University
Mentor: Debbie Fairbrother, Balloon Program Office

Christopher Johnson – University of Tennessee
Mentor: Phil Eberspeaker, Sounding Rockets Program Office

Issac Mensah – Mississippi State University
Mentor: John Moisan, Observational Science Branch

Alisha Gentry – Eastern Shore Community College
Mentor: Sherry Kleckner, Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate

Peter Hitchener – University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Mentors: John Moisan, Observational Science Branch, and Susannah Warner, Computer Sciences Corporation

Brian Hogan – New Mexico State University
Mentor: Henry Cathey, Physical Science Laboratory

Erick Acosta – New Mexico State University
Mentor: Henry Cathey, Physical Science Laboratory

Aimee Lemeiux – Rochester Institute of Technology
Mentor: Jerry Sterling, Mechanical Systems Branch

Christina Ermie - Rochester Institute of Technology
Mentor: Walt Costello, Orbital Science Corporation

Catherine Herman - Virginia Tech
Mentor: Mark Simko, Orbital Science Corporation

Benjamin Sigrist - Messiah College
Mentor: Zeb Barfield, Northrop-Grumman

Aswad Hinton-Lee - Virginia Tech
Mentor: Dennis Melvin, Northrop-Grumman

Kenneth Kawahara - Virginia Tech
Mentor: Giovanni Rosanova, Orbital Science Corporation

Joshua Yacobucci - Penn State
Mentor: Rob Marshall, Northrop-Grumman

Andrew Owens – Clemson University
Mentor: Phil Eberspeaker, NASA Sounding Rocket Program Office

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
William H. (Bill) Parker
who died Sunday, June 6,
at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury.

Parker retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility as a machinist supervisor in Building F-10 with over 35 years at WFF.

He is survived by one daughter, one son, and 6 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son and his former wife.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shore Cancer Center, PO Box 17, Nassawadox, VA., 23413.

Summer Students cont.

Abraham Matthew – Penn State
Mentor: Phil Eberspeaker, NASA Sounding Rocket Program Office

James Smart - Penn State
Mentor: Giovanni Rosanova, Orbital Science Corporation

Daniel Thomas – Virginia Tech
Mentor: Jason Wood, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services

Katrina LaCurts – Pocomoke High
Mentor: Pam Pittman, Systems Software Engineering Branch

Samuel Arumala – Parkside High
Mentor: Geoff Bland, Observational Science Branch

Melissa Waterfield – Arcadia High
Mentors: Owen Hooks and Marianne Simko, EG&G

Jennifer Higgins – Parkside High
Mentor: TBD

Andrew Cropper – Nandua High
Mentor: Todd Thornes, Computer Sciences Corporation

Andrew Bratten – James M. Bennett
Mentor: Joel Simpson, GN&C and Mission Systems Engineering Branch

Rachel Patterson – Broadwater Academy
Mentor: David Gwaltney, UNISYS

Kyle Shahan – James M. Bennett
Mentor: Tom Taylor, Systems Software Engineering Branch

Joshua Barnes – Nandua High
Mentor: Janie Penn, Aircraft Office

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Editor Betty Flowers